



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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<b>Bill Number:</b>	S.0635	Signed by Governor on May 13, 2020
<b>Author:</b>	Young	
<b>Subject:</b>	Absentee Ballot Provisions on May 12, 2020	
<b>Requestor:</b>	Senate	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Miller	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	November 20, 2020	

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Election Commission (SEC) because software updates are regularly managed by the vendor within the scope of an existing contract.

Additionally, this bill will have no impact on local expenditures because allowing an extra day to examine the return-address envelopes received for absentee ballots will not change the number of envelopes reviewed. All additional documentation requirements can be managed with existing staff and resources.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Signed by Governor on May 13, 2020**

##### **State Expenditure**

This bill requires the State Election Commission (SEC) to implement a software update to its election voting machines to allow for challenges to absentee ballots. This bill takes effect upon signing by the governor. Based on prior responses regarding similar legislation, SEC has contracted with a vendor to implement any necessary software updates to the election voting machines. This software update will be handled by the vendor as part of their existing contract with SEC. Therefore, SEC anticipates no expenditure impact.

##### **State Revenue**

N/A

##### **Local Expenditure**

This bill allows county boards of voter registration and elections, municipal election commissions, or executive committees of each municipal party to begin the process of examining the return-address envelopes that have been received for absentee ballots beginning on the calendar day preceding election day. This change will take effect upon signing by the governor and remain in effect until January 1, 2021, at which time the section will revert to current law. Currently, county boards of voter registration and elections, municipal election commissions, or executive committees of each municipal party may begin the process of examining the return-address envelopes that have been received for absentee ballots beginning on election day. As the allowance for more time to examine the absentee ballot envelopes will only occur until January 1, 2021, and will not result in a change to the total number of ballots examined, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs anticipates there will be no local expenditure increase.

Additionally, this bill requires county boards of voter registration and elections to document the date and method upon which an absentee ballot is returned. Currently, county boards of voter registration and elections must serially number each absentee ballot application form and keep records as required by law. This bill also requires county boards of voter registration and elections to post the requirements to challenge a ballot in a conspicuous location in their respective offices and websites. RFA anticipates that these additional documentation requirements can be managed with existing staff and resources. Therefore, no local expenditure impact is anticipated.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director